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BOURNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1949

W K Morton & Sons, Printers, Bourne

BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bourne Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report and that of your Sanitary Inspector for 1949.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area, in acres	10,103
Population—Registrar General's figures 1949 ...	5,200
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,476
Rateable Value	£23,578
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£92

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Births ...	40	31	71
Deaths ...	29	29	58

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ,, ,, Measles ,, ,, Whooping Cough ,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	1	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	—	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
Cancer of buccal cavity	4	—
,, ,, oesophagus		
,, ,, Uterus		
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum		2
Cancer of Breast	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	3	2
Intra cranial vascular lesions	5	5
Heart diseases	9	9
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	2	1
Bronchitis	2	2

	M.	F.
Pneumonia	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—
Nephritis	—	1
Premature birth	—	1
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic	—	1
All other causes	1	4

B. HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

The personnel of the Health Services remain as before the War.

A third Nurse is needed to do General Nursing as the time of the two Queen's Sisters is fully occupied with midwifery, taking in as they do villages in the South Kesteven R.D.C. lying immediately North and South of the town, that is the two Sisters look after some 6,500 people.

Their work has been slightly eased by the arrival of a second car. The Home Help Service has been started, but there is a shortage of helps.

The Ambulance Service now run by the County Council functions very well, despite the often inordinate demands on it. A sitting car has been stationed in Bourne as well as the Ambulance and is of great service.

The Health Service is working smoothly all told, save for the delays in admission to hospital of certain types of cases, not acute, and save for the deterioration in the provision of beds for the old age, helpless, or infirm.

Old people living alone and no longer able to look after themselves have to wait far too long for admission to the Home at Stamford. All sorts of reasons are put forward to explain these delays, but excuses do not help people lying in the physical and mental disorder of senility.

C. HOUSING.

In 1949, 13 new houses were completed, 11 Council Houses and 2 Private Houses; far too few of both.

The long delays in building are emphatically not due to the Council. The town needs another hundred houses; they should be of a much simpler type, simplicity need not mean ugliness. Some how or other they must be built much more cheaply as otherwise the rents will be far too high, and it will be impossible for people, at present living in the many houses only fit for demolition, to afford the rent of the new ones that may be offered them.

Conversion of Midden or Pan Closets to W.C.'s.

Number converted, 5.

VERMIN INFESTATION—2 Cases.

Approved School.—The sewer to this school after endless delays was at last started, carried for a quarter of a mile from its junction with town main and then the work was stopped when on the grounds of economy the School was suddenly told it was going to be closed.

D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All meat is inspected at the Government Slaughter House, in conjunction with the South Kesteven R.D.C.

Persistent attempts are made to secure the mere hygienic handling of meat in transit from the slaughter house to the various butchers' shops.

The state of the slaughter house is such that it would not have been tolerated before the war.

The best solution would be to hand it over in toto to the Local Authority.

E. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis Cerebro Spinal Fever	
Under One year	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
1—2 ,,	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
2—3 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-
3—4 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	3	-	-
4—5 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	3	-	-
5—10 ,,	-	-	1	-	2	8	-	-	12	-	-
10—15 ,,	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
15—20 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
20—35 ,,	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45 ,,	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—65 ,,	-	-	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	8	1	4	29	6	-	24	-	-
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-

One unsatisfactory feature of the new regime is that the M.O.H. has lost some control over Infectious disease. Before he was responsible for deciding whether a case of infectious disease should go to hospital or not. Now the patients' own Doctor secures admission for the case through a central office of the area concerned. This certainly relieves the M.O.H. of the burden of finding a bed but he may only find out when the notification reaches him.

Tuberculosis.—New Cases and Mortality in 1949 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
15—25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45—55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55—65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

I wish to thank my fellow officers for their unfailing help.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. GALLETLY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Report for 1949.

A. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.—Eleven Council Houses were completed during the year, and the main consideration in allocation being overcrowding. Two private houses were completed.

Consideration was given to the service of Demolition Orders in respect of three houses, and Demolition Orders made in each case.

Sewage Disposal and Drainage.—The sewage works is a matter of grave concern, the works being inefficient and seriously overloaded. Thirteen additional premises were connected to the sewers this year, and some further fifty premises will be added in the near future. In addition there are the premises which have been converted to the water carriage system.

A portable motor pump was installed this year and minor works carried out, the great advantages of which are reflected in the increased quantity of sludge retained.

During the year 5 middens have been converted to water-closets, and four houses redrained with provision of water-closets in place of pail closets.

One further length of sewer was laid, providing additional building land for future development.

Refuse Collection.—Refuse collection is effected weekly in the town area, once a fortnight at Dyke and Cawthorpe, and monthly in the North Fen area.

The salvage of paper was discontinued as the cost of collection and baling exceeded the price realised.

A voluntary trade collection scheme, on payment of costs, has been instituted.

Rodent Control.—Rodent Control is supervised by this department. Periodical treatment of sewers, sewage works, and refuse tip are carried out. Complaints are investigated and the necessary steps carried out by the Rodent Operator.

A two day demonstration and film show was promoted in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Disinfestation.—Two verminous premises were dealt with.

Public Health Act, 1936.—The following complaints were dealt with :—

	No. of Complaints	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Housing defects ...	20	14	6
Defective drainage ...	10	8	—
Keeping of Animals ...	4	3	—
Dangerous Structures	3 (9 observations).	12	—
Smoke Abatement ...	2	2	—
Caravans	5	5	—
Other matters ...	17	16	—

B. INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Meat Inspection.—Animals intended for food are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse. Ante-mortem inspection was made in some cases, but post-mortem inspection was carried out to all carcases with the co-operation of the South Kesteven Rural District Council.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number slaughtered and inspected ...	412	149	340	2020	229
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	9	15	45	31	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	117	53	3	98	101
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	30.58%	45.63%	14.71%	6.43%	50.22%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	5	10	2	——	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	68	67	—	——	13
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	17.72%	51.68%	0.59%	——	7.42%
Total weight condemned ...	19 tons, 18 cwts., 1 quarter.				

Food Inspection.—The following visits were made to food premises :—

Butchers' Shops ...	12	Ice Cream Premises	26
Restaurants ...	10	Other Premises ...	10

Seven Notices were served with respect to cleansing, and washing facilities. The necessary works were carried out, with one exception. In this case major improvements are pending.

The following unsound food was examined in shops, etc., and surrendered voluntarily :—

Meat	666lbs.	Tinned fish ...	12lbs.
Corned beef ...	450lbs.	,, fruit ...	18lbs.
Fish	168lbs.	,, meat ...	25lbs.
Cake	308lbs.	,, milk ...	34lbs.
Other foods ...	16lbs.	,, vegetables	16lbs.

Sale of Ice Cream.—Ice Cream is manufactured and sold from two premises, and sold from eleven other premises.

20 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination. The final results were satisfactory.

C. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the inspections made :—

	No. on Register	Inspections	Informal Notices
(1) Factories without Mechanical Power Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, enforceable by the Local Authority.	16	10	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforceable by the Local Authority. (Factories with Mechanical Power).	41	17	3
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforceable	2	—	—
TOTAL ...	59	27	4

The defects found were want of cleanliness and unsuitable sanitary conveniences.

During my second year of office, I feel justified in stating that progress has been made in the general interests of hygiene. There are two outstanding points for consideration, (1) the need for a new sewage works; (2) the provision of houses at a rent suitable for rehousing people living in unfit houses.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my Assistant, Mr. G. Batterham, for his unfailing enthusiasm and help, and to record the assistance afforded me by my Fellow Officers.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. HOWARD.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.